1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttarkashi	Chhiniyalisur	1263	1011	858	127	9
*Dehradun	Rajpur	—	—	—	600	7
Haridwar	Bahadrabad	775	272	866	—	12
Saharanpur	Deoband	1933	2450	3649	—	—

*Projects were focussed on adolescents.

ANC — Ante Natal Care

ELCOS — Eligible Couples

Growth of population in the country

813. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: ,

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of the country is growing at an alarming rate;

(b) the reason for this alarming growth in population;

(c) the steps being taken to control the unprecedented growth of population in the country; and

(d) the effect of the population growth on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT pR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per Census 2001, the average exponential growth rate of population in the country declined to 1.93% during 1991-2001 as compared to2.14%during 1981-1991.

(b) The current growth in population is contributed largely by three factors namely (i) Large population in the reproductive age (ii) Unmet needs of contraception and health services (iii) Felt need of higher fertility due to high IMR, son preference etc.

A large number of other factors also influence population growth rate. Some of these factors are women's empowerment, women's status in the family, education particularly of women, infrastructure and communication facilities etc. Population stabilisation is truly a multi-sectoral agenda.

(c) and (d) The following are some of the initiatives taken during the last two years on the issue of containing the growth of population and expediting the pace of implementation of National Family Welfare Programme.

Stabilizing Population

- For the first time in independent India, a comprehensive National Population Policy has been adopted by the Government with the objective of improving the quality of life of the citizens, by reaching out to them with an enhanced package of services and supplies, that will *inter-alia,* serve to stabilize the unregulated growth of population.
- National Commission on Population has been constituted directly under the chairmanship of Prime Minister with Chief Ministers of all States/UTs, demographers, non-governmental organizations and public health professionals as members to advise in operationalising the National Population Policy.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focussed attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in the eight States- of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, involving voluntary associations, community organisations and Panchayati Raj institutions in this national effort.
- Series of consultations have been held with all stakeholders *Le.* the State Health and Family Welfare Ministers, State Secretaries, professional medical associations and medical experts, NGOs, media persons, corporate sector and civil society for implementation of the National Population Policy, 2000.
- In order, to arrest the adverse sex ratio, an intensive campaign has been launched against the practice of female foeticide through the mass media, print and electronic media, as well as through the voluntary organisations for stricter enforcement of the law. [The Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques (Regulation and prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 is being amended as well to cover the new emerging technologies and for ensuring effective implementation of the Act]
- Male participation in the programme has increased manifold with the growing popularity of No Scalpel Vasectofny-a much-improved method.

Integrated service delivery: Reproductive health

- Immunization is key to health of children by reducing infant mortality. RCH outreach services such as immunization, ante and post natal

check ups, information and counselling, as well as contraceptive services are being provided. This scheme which covered 50 districts last year, has been extended during the current year to 101 additional districts.

- In an effort to supplement existing interventions seeking to expand outreach and coverage, a series of 'Parivar Kalyan and Swasthya Melas' have been held all over the country including Mathura, Delhi, Lucknow, Kargil, Patna, Badal, Perambur, Sultanpur (UP) and Ghazipur (UP). [Many more are being planned.]
- RCH camps are also periodically organised at primary health centres for providing integrated services to the rural population, especially women and children, in remote and under-served areas. The scheme, which was started in 101 districts last year, has now been extended to 77 additional districts in the current year.
- The programme for training of traditional birth attendants (Dais), with provision of kits, has been introduced in 142 districts with a record of less than 30% safe deliveries.
- Resources and skills of the Indian Systems of Medicine are also being utilized in the RCH Program. Effective Ayurveda and Unani medicines for common ailments of women and children are being supplied to sub-centres/institutions in 7 States, in particular.
- Private-public partnership through the NGO movement has been networked in 412 districts.

There is no denying the fact that the unabated population growth has affected economy of this country; but the promotional, motivational measures and operational strategies envisaged in National Population Policy, 2000 are expected to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Anthrax powder infection

814. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many areas in the country are getting affecting by the Anthrax powder infection;